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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/098,544	06/17/1998	TAKAAKI ENDO	2355.10102	4229

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EXAMINER

LEE, RICHARD J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2613

28

DATE MAILED: 02/05/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Advisory Action

Application No.

09/098,544

Applicant(s)

ENDO ET AL.

Examiner

Richard Lee

Art Unit

2613

--The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

THE REPLY FILED 26 January 2004 FAILS TO PLACE THIS APPLICATION IN CONDITION FOR ALLOWANCE. Therefore, further action by the applicant is required to avoid abandonment of this application. A proper reply to a final rejection under 37 CFR 1.113 may only be either: (1) a timely filed amendment which places the application in condition for allowance; (2) a timely filed Notice of Appeal (with appeal fee); or (3) a timely filed Request for Continued Examination (RCE) in compliance with 37 CFR 1.114.

PERIOD FOR REPLY [check either a) or b)]

- a) ☒ The period for reply expires 4 months from the mailing date of the final rejection.
- b) ☐ The period for reply expires on: (1) the mailing date of this Advisory Action, or (2) the date set forth in the final rejection, whichever is later. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of the final rejection. ONLY CHECK THIS BOX WHEN THE FIRST REPLY WAS FILED WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF THE FINAL REJECTION. See MPEP 706.07(f).

Extensions of time may be obtained under 37 CFR 1.136(a). The date on which the petition under 37 CFR 1.136(a) and the appropriate extension fee have been filed is the date for purposes of determining the period of extension and the corresponding amount of the fee. The appropriate extension fee under 37 CFR 1.17(a) is calculated from: (1) the expiration date of the shortened statutory period for reply originally set in the final Office action; or (2) as set forth in (b) above, if checked. Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of the final rejection, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

1. ☐ A Notice of Appeal was filed on _____. Appellant's Brief must be filed within the period set forth in 37 CFR 1.192(a), or any extension thereof (37 CFR 1.191(d)), to avoid dismissal of the appeal.
2. ☒ The proposed amendment(s) will not be entered because:
- (a) ☒ they raise new issues that would require further consideration and/or search (see NOTE below);
- (b) ☐ they raise the issue of new matter (see Note below);
- (c) ☒ they are not deemed to place the application in better form for appeal by materially reducing or simplifying the issues for appeal; and/or
- (d) ☐ they present additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims.

NOTE: Proposed changes to claims 24 and 27 raise new issues.

3. ☐ Applicant's reply has overcome the following rejection(s): _____.
4. ☐ Newly proposed or amended claim(s) _____ would be allowable if submitted in a separate, timely filed amendment canceling the non-allowable claim(s).
5. ☐ The a) ☐ affidavit, b) ☐ exhibit, or c) ☐ request for reconsideration has been considered but does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because: _____.
6. ☐ The affidavit or exhibit will NOT be considered because it is not directed SOLELY to issues which were newly raised by the Examiner in the final rejection.
7. ☐ For purposes of Appeal, the proposed amendment(s) a) ☐ will not be entered or b) ☐ will be entered and an explanation of how the new or amended claims would be rejected is provided below or appended.

The status of the claim(s) is (or will be) as follows:

Claim(s) allowed: _____.

Claim(s) objected to: _____.

Claim(s) rejected: _____.

Claim(s) withdrawn from consideration: _____.

8. ☐ The drawing correction filed on _____ is a) ☐ approved or b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
9. ☐ Note the attached Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____.
10. ☐ Other: _____



Richard Lee
Primary Examiner
Art Unit: 2613

- put preamble in body

Proposed changes to claims
from interview 1/7/04

24. (Previously Amended) An image processing method for synthesizing first image data sensed by a first image sensing means with second image data sensed by a second image sensing means, wherein the first and second image sensing means are arranged separately on a mobile object with a known distance between them in the moving direction of the mobile object, the first image sensing means is arranged to have an image sensing direction substantially aligned with the moving direction of the mobile object, the second image sensing means is arranged to have an image sensing direction aligned with a direction opposite to the moving direction of the mobile object, and each of the first and second image data is recorded with information indicating when the image data was sensed, said method comprising the steps of:

retrieving image data sensed at a first time instant t_1 from among a group of the first image data;

retrieving image data sensed at a second time instant t_2 from among a group of the second image data, where $t_2 = t_1 + \frac{L}{v}$ in $t_2 = t_1 + \frac{L}{v}$, the second time instant is a time occurring after the first time instant by a time period corresponding to the known distance between the first image sensing means and the second image sensing means; and

synthesizing the image data retrieved at the first time instant and the second time instant to make panoramic image data.

of a panoramic image
from a location of the 1st
image sensing means at the
first time instant.

25. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 24, wherein the time period between the first time instant and the second time instant is determined from the known distance and a velocity of the mobile object at the time the first and second images were sensed.

26. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 24, wherein each of the first and second image data is recorded with information indicating where the image was sensed.

27. (Previously Presented) An image processing apparatus for synthesizing first image data sensed by a first image sensing means with second image data sensed by second image sensing means, wherein the first and second image sensing means are arranged separately on a mobile object with a known distance between them in the moving direction of the mobile object, wherein the first image sensing means is arranged to have an image sensing direction substantially aligned with the moving direction of the mobile object, the second image sensing means is arranged to have an image sensing direction aligned with a direction opposite to the moving direction of the mobile object, and each of the first and second image data is recorded with information indicating when the image data was sensed, said apparatus comprising:

first retrieving means for retrieving the image data sensed at a first time instant from among a group of the first image data;

second retrieving means for retrieving the image data sensed at a second time instant, after a time corresponding to the known distance from the first time instant, from among a group of the second image data; and

synthesizing means for synthesizing the two retrieved image data to make panoramic image data.